

September Fifth
1 9 5 3

Hon. John Collier
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Collier:

I represent the Ward Estate who own 27,000 acres of red-wood timber in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties.

There is a grave discrepancy in the boundaries of our property with the Indian allotments surrounding us. In many cases they are utilizing 15 acres of our land today and refuse to get off except on orders of the U. S. Government. I wrote to Mr. Boggess and enclosed find copy of his reply. I am enclosing picture of the disputed area, also map.

I want the U. S. Government to put a surveying crew in there and establish for all time the lines. I took the matter up with the San Francisco office and they referred me to Mr. A. C. Horton, Public Survey Office, Public Service Building, General Land Office, Glendale. I talked with Mr. Horton and he told me that he would have to get his orders direct from you before making any survey.

The lines that I want established are marked in red on the enclosed map. Some center basic corner that we can tie to.

My controversy as to lines is with Charley Williams and Harrison Williams. Also I am in dispute with Beatrice Peini and W. H. Garrett.

I hope you can grant our request at an early date and order this survey as suggested by Mr. Boggess for the Indians will not accept any boundaries located by the county or state.

Thanking you for your early attention to this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

EP:AEK

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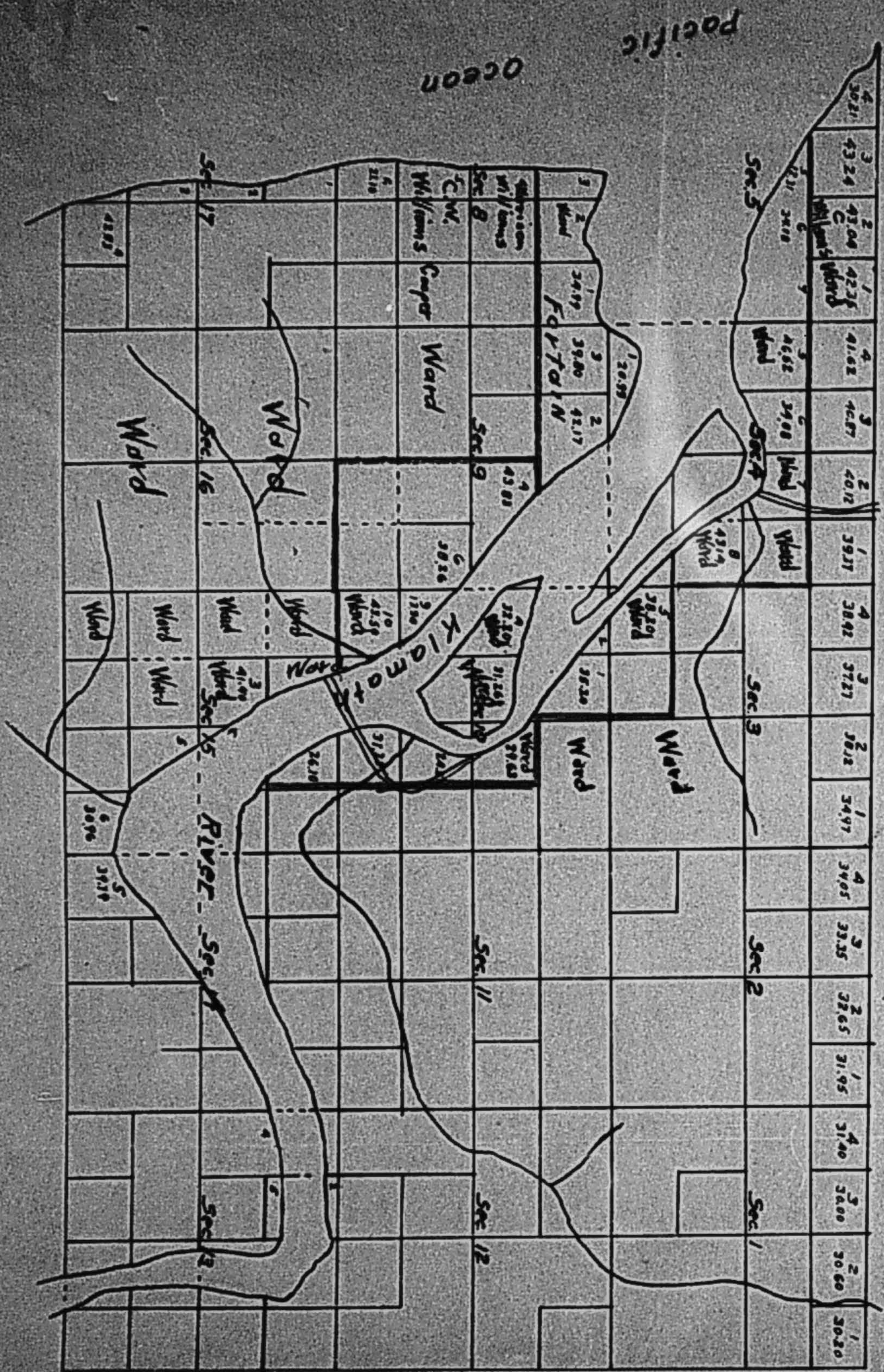
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Township 13 N. R. 1 East H.M.

April 19, 1924.

My dear Mr. Collier:

I have been in close touch with the situation for a year and a half re the removal of the Conchos Indians, and as you know have done all that I could, particularly working with Mr. Dudy and Mr. Hoshiko, to get this most vexatious matter settled.

The daughter of one of the Pipers married our janitor, a fine fellow, Mr. C. Anderson. They have recently been fixed up and have as their share a house and lot in town.

For nineteen years I was part owner and manager of the Cuyamaca Water Company, employed the Indians and had an Indian for our superintendent. My former manager, Mr. Merritt, has known these Indians personally for 25 years. I am now absolutely convinced that you can never change the Indians in their desire to select their own property, and it is the Viejas Ranch they want. This attitude, I believe, is in accordance with their original petition. It adjoins their present reservation and they are satisfied to take it as is.

My suggestion is that you make the Indians an offer to furnish them a deed to the Viejas Ranch, with the following development. I understand a plan has been submitted along the following lines:

Cost of Ranch	\$150,000.00
Cost of construction 25 houses, including equipment on hand	18,000.00
Furniture	7,000.00
Cattle	10,000.00
Reserve Fund	10,000.00
Church	2,000.00
Necessary water extensions	1,000.00
Superintendency and cost of fixing erosion	2,000.00

This will leave approximately 252,000 and interest to be divided among the Indians, or about \$200.00 each. It looks like a practicable proposition in every respect.

The water system is developed. There are plenty of houses and lumber to construct any and all things they want, with plenty to spare with the possible exception of doors, windows and plumbing, and there should be enough in this fund to take care of their needs to house them all.

amount to amount in fact that to some extent of soil erosion is possible and that with the best care and attention of people's attention and business and other things that to some extent and that will probably be a great deal of trouble and expense to be taken.

They want to hold this property as a community property. I have recently thoroughly examined the ranch and have known the ranch for the last thirty years. The claim as regards erosion of the Viejas Ranch is foolish, and is not any more serious than any purchase of land anywhere that the Indians might buy, particularly where a high quality of soil is to be had. Several cheap willow dams, tied with chicken wire, at no expense excepting the chicken wire, can be built that will preserve for all time any land from danger of further soil erosion. It is just a matter of from time to time properly attending to the dams before the winter season comes on.

For your information, a U. S. Government erosion expert is going out to inspect the Viejas Ranch with J. G. France, the U. S. Farm Adviser for San Diego County, and his report will be forthcoming shortly. I am sure it will be interesting.

As you know I have for thirty years been active in water development; have promoted the construction of 8 dams and for 19 years was part owner and manager of the Cuyamaca Water System, President of the San Dieguito Mutual Water Company and promoter of the construction of Manshaw Dam. These systems furnish 125,000 acres of land with water. I can testify as an expert that in the matter of soil erosion, that wet winters when the damage is done come every seven to eleven years, and with the damage that is already done, any argument that soil erosion is a dangerous, expensive thing to the Viejas Ranch is unfair to the property and a negligible matter easily taken care of by the Indians themselves under proper supervision of their superintendent.

The Viejas Ranch cost its owner in excess of one-half million dollars. The price is ridiculously low, but the vital thing that prompts me to write you as I am in that, in my opinion, with the ownership of the Viejas ranch in the hands of the Indians, I believe I am in a position to say definitely, that it will do more for harmony and in bringing together the different factions pertaining to the administration of Mr. Dady than anything that can be done. When I make this statement I include Mr. Willis as well as Dady, and the other conflicting interests that have had so much controversy in the past.

I am afraid this letter may offend Mr. Dady and Mr. Wohlke. They are both splendid friends. I cherish their friendship. I want their friendship but for reasons which you well know at the present time I want you to treat this letter strictly confidential and give me, if you care to, your reaction to it. If what I recommend meets with your approval I promise you that we can get immediate action, and further that it will bring about the thing

most desired - cooperation and harmony between all factions, including the Federation and Mr. Willis. Things have happened here in the last forty-eight hours that have made me change my mind entirely on the local situation.

Again I ask that you treat this letter in confidence and give me your reaction to it. An air mail letter would be greatly appreciated.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

P. S. I am enclosing clippings from the San Diego Sun of April 18th and also Los Angeles Times, that are explanatory. This looks like a real fight and if it cannot be proven I am afraid there is danger of libel which would involve you personally. I can see matters drifting into a hopeless mess that will cause you anxiety and give undue publicity. Where we will end no one knows. In the meantime the City of San Diego is in a desperate position. They will be wanting to close their gates shortly and impound water at El Capitan dam, and before this can be done the Indians must be moved, both the living and the dead. I believe a compromise along the lines above stated will bring about happy results and in the end you will accomplish everything you have set out to do in the management and control of the Indians of Southern California.

E.F.

EF:KLM

May Twenty-third
1 9 3 4

Honorable John Collier
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Collier:

Further regarding the disputed boundary line of Harrison Williams at the mouth of the Klamath River I give you the history of the matter.

Mr. Williams has been occupying part of the Ward estate property for 10 or 15 years and paid no rent. I represent the Ward estate. He has had as high as 100 boats there during the fishing season on our property. There has been a dispute in boundaries. I made a definite arrangement with Mr. Harrison Williams, who is an Indian, that we would have the county surveyor re-establish the boundaries. This at my own expense. The county surveyor of Del Norte County, Mr. H. M. Malpas, made the survey and when completed it was discovered that not alone has Mr. Williams used four or five acres of the Ward estate property for many without pay but he had built his fences over 100 feet on our property and had also built a school house on our property for which he has been collecting \$90 a year rental.

After the survey was completed Mr. Williams refused to move and quoting from a letter of Mr. Malpas as follows: "I learned down there that Mr. Boggess told Harrison Williams he would not have to pay any rent this year but to sit tight as the lines would not be adjusted for some time. I don't think this man should have any consideration from you whatever when it comes to renting him a boat landing."

After the survey was made, which was months ago, we offered to lease the land to Harrison Williams for what we considered a reasonable sum, \$400, as the property controls the approach to the river and over 100 boats are owned and used by Mr. Williams, so I have been informed. I personally saw, last year, over 100 people fishing at one time on Harrison Williams property and the Ward estate and my understanding is that he charges \$1.50 apiece for boat and fishing.

I am willing to take \$200 for this year's rental of the Ward estate property rather than have any further controversy, but I resent the attitude of your representative, Mr. Boggess if he advised Harrison Williams as quoted, particularly after Williams has had the free use and income from our Ward estate property for the last ten or fifteen years. Their whole game is one of stall and I would gratefully appreciate it if you would take the matter up directly with Mr. Boggess and get a definite commitment as to whether Mr. Williams is going to rent our land or not and when we can expect a government survey to check up the county engineers survey.

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H.F.

MIN:TE

We took this matter up nearly a year ago and things have been dragging. We would appreciate immediate action and gratefully oblige. I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Boggess. I am enclosing copy of letter I have written him. Yours very truly,

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J. O. R. V.
MAIL DELIVERY

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 5 Folder: 5

General Correspondence - Collier, John



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